

AUG 11 2006

## Substitute Claims

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1. (Original) An axial flow device comprising:
    - a housing,
    - a substantially annular chamber within said housing to convey a substantially incompressible working fluid from an inlet to an outlet,
    - said chamber including at least two stages that each include a rotor section and a stator section,
    - said rotor section including a multi-bladed drive wheel positioned downstream of said inlet and operative to rotate around an axis to drive working fluid from the inlet to the outlet, and
    - said stator section being positioned downstream of the rotor section and including plural vanes substantially fixed relative to said housing and geometrically arranged to define a flow path having a cross-sectional area between vanes that increases from an entry point to an exit point of the stator section.
  2. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein [said stator vane] said vanes of said stator section are variable in pitch and operative as a flow straightener of said working fluid or to adjust the angle of attack of the working fluid upon entry into a following rotor section.
  3. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said outlet comprises a convergent annular chamber at a discharge nozzle whereby to increase velocity of [liquid] working fluid discharged from said outlet.
  4. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 3, wherein said convergent annular chamber includes a variable throat area positioned immediately upstream of said outlet to vary the velocity of [the liquid] working fluid discharged from said outlet.